

Hoop Pine Forest Walk

A well graded walking path through a forest of mature Hoop Pines - *Araucaria cunninghamii*



The path is designed in several loops and information signs along the way will indicate where each path will take you. There are seats so you can stop and rest and enjoy the atmosphere of the forest.

TO GET TO THE SUMMIT, walk along the entrance path as far as the first **path junction**. Then **turn left onto the Summit Path**. It zig zags gently to the next level to the **Old Fig Tree, Rock Circle Glade** and onto **The Chimes** at the junction with the Perimeter Path.

Look out for the **Carpet Snake mosaic** on a large rock to the left of the path near the Old Fig Tree

Turn left at the junction with the Perimeter Path and zig zag up to **junction with Rocky Gully Path**. **Turn right** and continue up to the **Summit**.

THE LABYRINTH is immediately on your right at the top. You can walk the circular path into the centre or just sit and enjoy the forest before making your descent.

Make your way across the clearing at the top . On your left you will find a **Large Bell..** please ring it and enjoy its mellow sound. Then start your walk down the hill along the **Return Path**

Turn **right at first junction – look out for the Goanna** mosaic on the rock to the left just before **Rocky Gully Path** .

Continue on the Rocky Gully path across the gully, and follow it as it zig zags down hill. This section is narrow but gently graded. Note circle of logs at the **Pondering Place** below on your left as you descend. The path comes out opposite Wilson Park Species Garden. **DISTANCE: 888m**

AN ALTERNATE ROUTE TO THE SUMMIT is along the **Perimeter Path**, then take right fork in path **at The Chimes, right at the Rocky Creek junction**, up to the Summit and back down along Rocky Gully Path. **DISTANCE: 1107m**

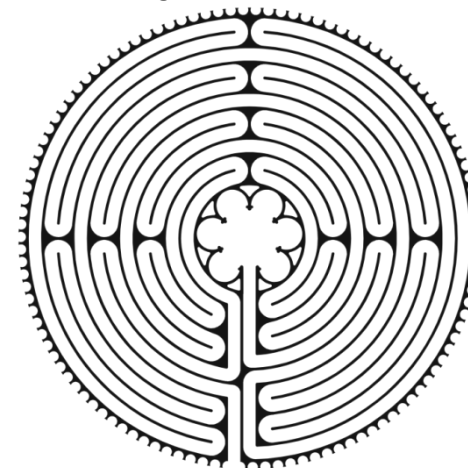
LOWER LOOP Perimeter Loop Path runs along the southern and eastern edges of the forest , then up onto a higher level where it joins the path going up to the Summit at **The Chimes**. Take the left fork and go down the path , past the **Rock Circle Glade** and the **Old Fig Tree** and back down to the entrance path. Turn right at this junction and back to the Path Entrance **DISTANCE: 731m**

The Hoop Pine Forest Walk was designed by Nick Alderson, basic construction work by Calvin Conlon and the rest of the work, including the labyrinth, was done by our volunteer work force... and visitors who carried up and placed stones! This path has been planned as a gentle walking place in a beautiful piece of nature. Enjoy your walk in this peaceful environment!

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THE LABYRINTH

The history of the labyrinth goes back a very long way. The earliest examples dated to the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods. The same design, was found on coins from Crete from the first few centuries BC. During Roman times the labyrinth was used a decorative symbol on the mosaic floors. They were also constructed outdoors as a playground for children and as a test of skill for soldiers on horseback. During the medieval period the labyrinth developed into a more intricate form. It often related to religious belief and was laid in coloured marble and tiles on the floors of cathedrals. The most famous is at Chartres Cathedral, where the labyrinth constructed in the early 13th century survives to this day. The design of our labyrinth is similar, though not identical, to the Chartres' design illustrated below.



During the late 20th century labyrinths were rediscovered by a new generation. With their ageless forms and complex, swirling pathways, labyrinths invite playful interaction, as well as peaceful contemplation.

Adapted from article by Jeff Saward on http://www.labyrinthbuilders.co.uk/about_labyrinths/history.html

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DISTANCES:

Start of Walk to Summit via Old Fig Path	498m
Start of Walk to Summit via Perimeter Path	717m
Summit to End of Walk via Rocky Gully Path	390m
Lower Loop via Perimeter & Old Fig Tree Paths and back to Start	731m